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Message Text

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65
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01

DHA-02 ORM-02 DPW-01 /095 W
---------- 074759
O R 201212Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8725
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4736

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: JULY 20 SYRIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCES PRES. ASAD TO DELIVER IMPORTANT SPEECH IN EVENING; REPORT POSTPONEMENT OF AMERICAN CONVOY FROM BEIRUT

1. JULY 20 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTED THAT PRES. ASAD WILL DELIVER IMPORTANT SPEECH THIS EVENING TO DELEGATES ASSEMBLED IN DAMASCUS FROM LOCAL PROVINCIAL COUNCILS. ACCORDING TO MEDIA, SPEECH WILL DEAL WITH "EVENTS OF THE HOUR" AND WILL "DOT I'S AND CROSS T'S" OF ALL ISSUES OF CONCERN.

2. PRESS ALSO BANNERED: "DELEGATION OF LEBANESE ISLAMIC BLOC LAUDS SYRIA'S ROLE IN RESOLVING CRISIS. YAFI -- 'SETTLE-
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MENT OF CRISIS LIES IN CEASE-FIRE AND RETURN TO DIALOGUE.'

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TAKIEDDIN SOLH -- 'SYRIA HAS BORNE MAJOR BURDEN
BECAUSE IT IS AWARE OF ITS NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.'
DELEGATIONS CONVEY SOMBER PICTURE OF SOCIAL AND SUPPLY
CONDITIONS OF LEBANESE CITIZENS. ALL ARABS ASKED TO
ACT TO SAVE WORSENING SITUATION. NUMBER OF PERSONS
INDUCED TO EMIGRATE FROM LEBANON TO SYRIA HAS REACHED
ONE MILLION, OF WHOM ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ARE PALESTINIAN.
COMMITTEES FORMED TO LOOK AFTER THEM AND PROVIDE SUITABLE
LIVING CONDITIONS AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT." YAFI,
SOLH, MALEK SALAM AND DR. NASIB BARBIR MET WITH PRIMIN
AYYUBI, FONMIN KHADDAM AND AF COMMANDER NAJI JAMIL JULY 19
TO REVIEW DEPLORABLE SECURITY, POLITICAL, SUPPLY AND
HEALTH SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND OTHER PARTS OF LEBANON.
YAFI OPINED ABOUT CRISIS, "IT IS NEARLY OVER, GOD WILLING."

3. CABINET MET YESTERDAY TO ESTABLISH MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
TO LOOK AFTER LEBANESE REFUGEES IN SYRIA, WHICH NUMBER
ONE MILLION ACCORDING TO ARTICLE. THREE COMMITTES FORMED:
COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE LIVING CONDITIONS OF FAMILIES,
HEADED BY MINISTER OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND INCLUDING
MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, SUPPLY, INTERIOR, HEALTH, LABOR
AND TRANSPORT; COMMITTEE TO ARRANGE TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT,
LED BY MINISTER OF LABOR; AND COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE
OPERATION BY LEBANESE OF THEIR VEHICLES IN SYRIA, LED BY
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT.

4. ZAHLE DEPUTY ELIAS HRAWI INTERVIEWED BY AL-BAATH
CORRESPONDENT PRAISED SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON
FOR RESTORING PEACE AND ORDER AND ACCUSED SOME PALESTINIAN
COMMANDS OF STRAYING FROM PALESTINIAN CAUSE. HE ALSO
CHARGED JUMBLATT WITH WORKING TO RUIN LEBANON AHS SERVE
ENEMIES OF ARABS. HE REVEALED PROPOSAL HE MADE TO SARKIS
WEEK AGO TO BEGIN FORMING CABINET ONCE HE ASSUMED OFFICE
DRAWN FROM WORK TEAM OF NATIONALIST ELEMENTS SUPPORTING
HIM.

5. MEDIA REPORTED CONTINUATION OF CLASHES IN MOST
LEBANESE REGIONS. MUSA SADR APPEALED TO TELL ZAATAR
FIGHTERS (ON BOTH SIDES) TO OBSERVE TRUCE THAT WOULD
PERMIT EVACUATION OF THOUSANDS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
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TRAPPED IN CAMP. ACCORDING TO PRESS, RED CROSS UNABLE
TO EVACUATE WOUNDED FROM CAMP. PRESS CLAIMED THAT
SECURITY SITUATION IN AREAS FROM WHICH SYRIAN FORCES HAVE
WITHDRAWN HAS DETERIORATED OWING TO ACTS OF AGGRESSION
COMMITTED BY FATAH/JUMBLATT GANGS.

6. PRESS REPORTED PRESS CONFERENCE DELIVERED BY SYRIAN
PERMREP AT UN IN GENEVA IN WHICH HE ASSERTED THAT SYRIA

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TRYING TO HALT BATTLES SO THAT PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED
WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE.

7. AT BOTTOM PAGE ONE, TISHRIIN QUOTED AGENCY REPORTS
THAT "AMERICAN EMBASSY POSTPONED EVACUATION OPERATION
FOR SECURITY REASONS." ARTICLE STATED, "OPERATION
WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF ADVICE RECEIVED BY EMBASSY
THAT SECURITY SITUATION NOT ASSURED ALONG CONVOY'S
ANTICIPATED ROUTE." AL-THAWRAH, ON PAGE 3, STATED
THAT "EVACUATION OPERATION WAS POSTPONED AT LAST MINUTE
FOR DAY OR TWO DUE TO DETERIORATION OF SECURITY SITUATION
IN LEBANON."
MURPHY

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